

Connecting Your School Garden to Curriculum



Presented by Lori Humbles & Rachel Galan
Tarkington School of Excellence – CPS's 1st Green School
2011 Green School Symposium

What Worked for Us can Work for You

WHAT DO YOU ALREADY DO?

- Existing Units: Skills & Content
- Teacher Survey



WHAT CAN YOU START TO DO?

- Get Ideas/Build Connections
- New Units: Skills & Content
- Design & Expansion
- Partnerships Across Grade Levels
- Grant Writing
- Professional Development

My How Our Garden Grows!

OUR SPACE BEFORE:

YEAR 1



My How Our Garden Grows!

YEAR 2



YEAR 3

- Expansion Plans: Native Rain Garden
- Feature Crop 2011



Tarkington's Curricular Connections

Middle School & Primary Grades Partnerships

- 4 Season Single Spot Garden Buddies
- Focus: Observation Skills

The Skills of a Scientist

- Generating Questions
- Making Predictions
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis

Botany

- Plant Identification & Field Guides: Trees, Prairie Plants, Herbs
- Plants and Their Structure
- Plant Life Cycles
- Characteristics of Natives

Ecology

- Biodiversity: Prairie Plant Adaptations and Insects of Illinois
- Benefits of a Rain Garden
- Site Analysis

Spaces That Foster Connection

- ◉ Native Plantings: Prairie, Tree & Shrub Walk, Rain Garden
- ◉ Raised Beds: Vegetables, Herbs, and Fruits
- ◉ Places to Sit
- ◉ Outdoor rooms: spaces to gather
- ◉ Trails



A Glimpse of Curricular Connection



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